

U.S. TREASURY DEPT.

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IN EXECUTIVE SESSION—SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 23, 1844.

Read.

MAY 24, 1844.

Injunction of secrecy removed.

MAY 28, 1844.

Ordered to be printed for the use of the Senate.

*To the Senate of the United States:*

Your resolution of the 18th instant, adopted in *Executive* session, addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury *ad interim*, has been communicated to me by that officer. While I cannot recognise this call, thus made on the head of a department, as consistent with the constitutional rights of the Senate when acting in its *Executive* capacity, which in such case can only properly hold correspondence with the President of the United States, nevertheless, from an anxious desire to lay before the Senate all such information as may be necessary to enable it with full understanding to act upon any subject which may be before it, I herewith transmit communications which have been made to me by the Secretaries of the War and Navy Departments, in full answer to the resolution of the Senate.

JOHN TYLER.

WASHINGTON, May 23, 1844.

[Copy of the resolution above referred to.]

IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, MAY 18, 1844.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed, with as little delay as possible, to communicate to the Senate whether any and what sums of money have been drawn from the Treasury, to be expended to carry into effect the orders of the War and Navy Departments, made since the 12th day of April last, for stationing troops or increasing the military force upon or near the frontiers of Texas and the Gulf of Mexico, and for placing a naval force in the Gulf of Mexico, with any other expenditures connected with those movements; and that he state particularly under what law of Congress and from what appropriation such moneys have been taken from the Treasury for expenditure.

Attest:

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ASBURY DICKINS, *Secretary.*

## TREASURY DEPARTMENT, May 20, 1844.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose the copy of a resolution adopted by the Senate in Executive session on the 18th instant, and to request that you will be pleased to furnish this department with the means of answering it, so far as regards the operations under the direction of your department. I have apprized the Senate that your requisitions upon the Treasury do not furnish the necessary information, and that the application of funds drawn upon them can only be ascertained by this department, upon the adjustment of the accounts of your disbursing officers; but that I have applied to you for information, and will submit it as soon as it shall be received.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
McC. YOUNG,

*Secretary of the Treasury ad interim.*

Hon. JOHN Y. MASON,

*Secretary of the Navy.*

## NAVY DEPARTMENT, May 22, 1844.

SIR: I have received your communication, dated on the 20th instant, enclosing a copy of a resolution of the Senate in Executive session, adopted on the 18th instant, by which the Secretary of the Treasury is directed to communicate information whether any and what sums of money have been drawn from the Treasury, to be expended as therein set forth, and informing me that you have apprized the Senate that my requisitions on the Treasury do not furnish the necessary information, but that you had applied to me for information, and will submit it as soon as received.

I am not aware of any law or usage which makes it proper that the Treasury Department shall be made the medium of communication between this department and either House of Congress. But, as I desire that the information asked for shall not be withheld on any point of official intercourse, I shall immediately communicate to the President of the United States answers to the inquiries propounded by the Senate in their resolution, to be disposed of as he may deem proper.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. Y. MASON.

McC. YOUNG, Esq.,

*Secretary of the Treasury ad interim.*

## TREASURY DEPARTMENT, May 21, 1844.

SIR: I have the honor to submit to you the enclosed resolution of the Senate, adopted in Executive session on the 18th instant.

This department not having the means within itself to furnish the information called for, copies of the resolution have been referred to the War and Navy Departments; and I now have the honor to submit it to you, for such directions as you may deem proper to give in relation to it.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

McCLINTOCK YOUNG,

*Secretary of the Treasury ad interim.*

The PRESIDENT.

## NAVY DEPARTMENT, May 22, 1844.

SIR: I have received from McC. Young, Esq., Secretary of the Treasury *ad interim*, a communication, dated on the 20th instant, covering a copy of a resolution of the Senate of the United States, adopted in Executive session on the 18th instant, of which I have the honor to transmit here-with copies.

As the information was not asked for by the Secretary *ad interim* for use in the administration of his department, in settlements with the disbursing officers of this department, I addressed to him a reply, of which I transmit a copy.

Animated by a sincere desire that the information sought for by the Senate in their resolution shall be communicated without delay, I have the honor respectfully to state that the vessels employed in the Gulf of Mexico, and those which it is contemplated to order there by this department, since the 12th of April last, belong to the home squadron, to which no additions have been made, except of the steamer Union, which was intended to be so attached without reference to the service in that particular part of the cruising ground of the squadron; and of the brig Lawrence, which was built for the Gulf service, and whose presence, as soon as her repairs can be completed, is rendered necessary by disturbances in Cuba and Hayti.

That no requisitions have been made on the Treasury for money to be expended otherwise than to meet the ordinary expenses of the vessels of the home squadron, and no others are contemplated. That these requisitions and expenditures are by virtue of the law making annual appropriations for the naval service. The amount of expenditure under each head of appropriation cannot be stated with any degree of accuracy until the purser's accounts are returned and settled; but no authority has been given, nor is any contemplated to be given, for expenditures beyond the usual expenses of the vessels thus in commission on duty in any part of the cruising ground of the squadron, which, by definite arrangements made in October, 1842, embraces the Gulf of Mexico and the West Indies.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

J. Y. MASON.

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

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WAR DEPARTMENT, May 23, 1844.

SIR: I acknowledge the receipt of your note of the date of the 20th instant, enclosing to me a copy of a resolution of the Senate of the United States, adopted in an Executive session on the 18th, calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury to communicate to that body "whether any and what sums of money have been drawn from the Treasury, to be expended to carry into effect the orders of the War and Navy Departments, made since the 12th day of April last, for stationing troops or increasing the military force upon or near the frontiers of Texas and the Gulf of Mexico."

Your note also informs me that you "have apprized the Senate that my requisitions upon the Treasury do not furnish the necessary information;" that you have applied to me for that "information, and will submit it as soon as it shall be received."

It appears that the resolution to which your note relates, and of which you enclose me a copy, was not only passed by the Senate when in Executive session, but calls upon the Treasury Department alone for the required information. In view of these two circumstances, and believing myself to be justified by the usage of official intercourse, I deem it to be my duty to say that I cannot acknowledge the Treasury Department to be the proper medium of communication between the Senate of the United States and the department under my charge, in relation to Executive business.

I am not disposed, however, on this point of official intercourse, to withhold the information called for by the resolution of the Senate; and impelled by the desire that the demand should be fully met, so far as the administration of the affairs of this department is concerned, I shall immediately make to the President of the United States a report containing answers to all the inquiries embraced in the resolution in question.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM WILKINS.

McC. YOUNG, Esq.,

*Secretary of the Treasury ad interim.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, May 23, 1844.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose you a copy of my note of this day, addressed to McC. Young, Esq., Secretary of the Treasury *ad interim*, in answer to a communication received from him, dated on the 20th instant, under cover of which he transmitted to me a copy of the resolution of the Senate of the United States, adopted when in Executive session, upon the 18th instant.

My note to Mr. Young will explain to you the reasons by which I am governed in adopting the course of communicating directly with you on the subject of the resolution of the Senate to which I have referred.

In answer, therefore, to the inquiry made by the Senate, "whether any and what sums of money have been drawn from the Treasury, to be expended to carry into effect the orders of the War Department, made since the 12th day of April last, for stationing troops or increasing the military force upon or near the frontiers of Texas and the Gulf of Mexico," I have the honor to report to you, that no other "sums of money will be expended to carry into effect the orders of the War Department, made since the 12th day of April last, for stationing troops or increasing the military force upon or near the frontiers of Texas or the Gulf of Mexico," than such as are rendered necessary to defray the cost of transportation. All supplies of the troops, to which they are entitled, must be furnished to them, wheresoever they may be stationed. In this respect, therefore, there is no novel expenditure.

The contracts for transporting the 3d and 4th regiments of infantry from Jefferson barracks, Missouri, to Natchitoches, Louisiana, have been received by the Quartermaster General, and they stipulate for the payment of eight thousand one hundred dollars for the transportation of the two regiments between those points. The economy with which this service has been performed will be understood by a recurrence to the cost of

the transportation of the 6th regiment of infantry between the same points in 1842, which amounted to fourteen thousand dollars.

The transportation from Natchitockes to Fort Jesup will be done principally, if not altogether, by the public teams.

Several wagons and harness have been purchased for the use of the troops on the Southwestern frontier. They would have been ordered, in any event, as necessary to the service; but the movement of the troops to the frontier of Louisiana hastened the order, perhaps, three months sooner than it would otherwise have been issued.

It is very obvious, and therefore hardly necessary for me to remark, although falling within the range of the inquiry as to the money expended "for stationing troops or increasing the military force upon or near the frontiers of Texas," that the cost of the transportation of the force put into motion by my orders towards the frontier has been of course nothing more than the usual expenditure attendant upon any change of position of our troops, and for which ordinary military service annual appropriations are made by Congress. It may also be observed, that the disbursement for the transportation of the 3d regiment of infantry from the vicinity of St. Louis was consequent upon the propriety of relieving the 2d regiment of dragoons, whose services would not be longer required in garrison at Fort Jesup, upon their being remounted under the provisions of the recent act of Congress. When they shall be so equipped, their proper duties as mounted troops would require that they should be detached from this comparatively interior position, to occupy the more remote and important posts along our extensive line of frontier bordering upon the Indian country, for the purpose of affording protection to the inhabitants of the remote Western and Southwestern States against Indian incursions, and to restrain, as far as possible, the several savage tribes from committing aggressions upon each other.

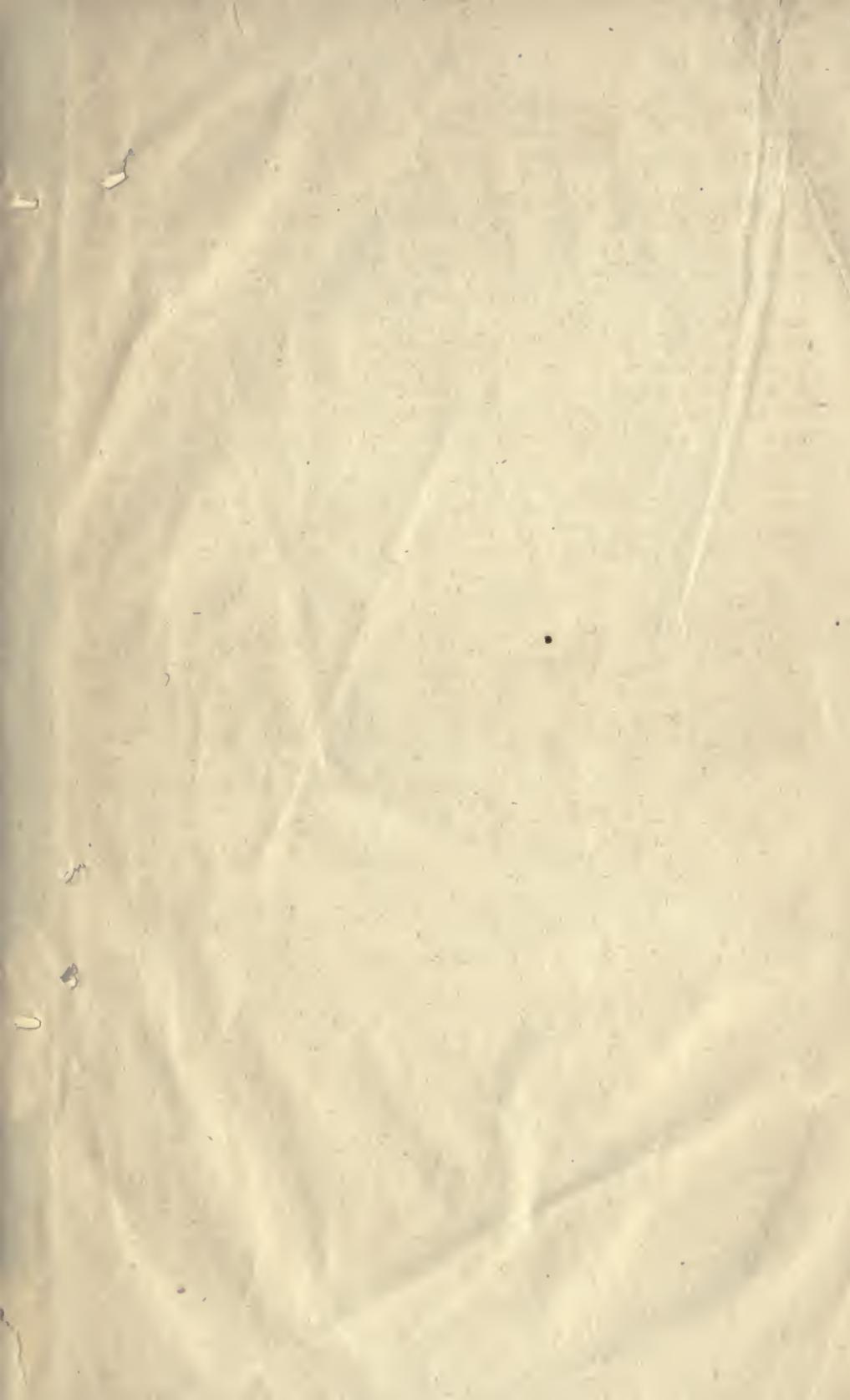
Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

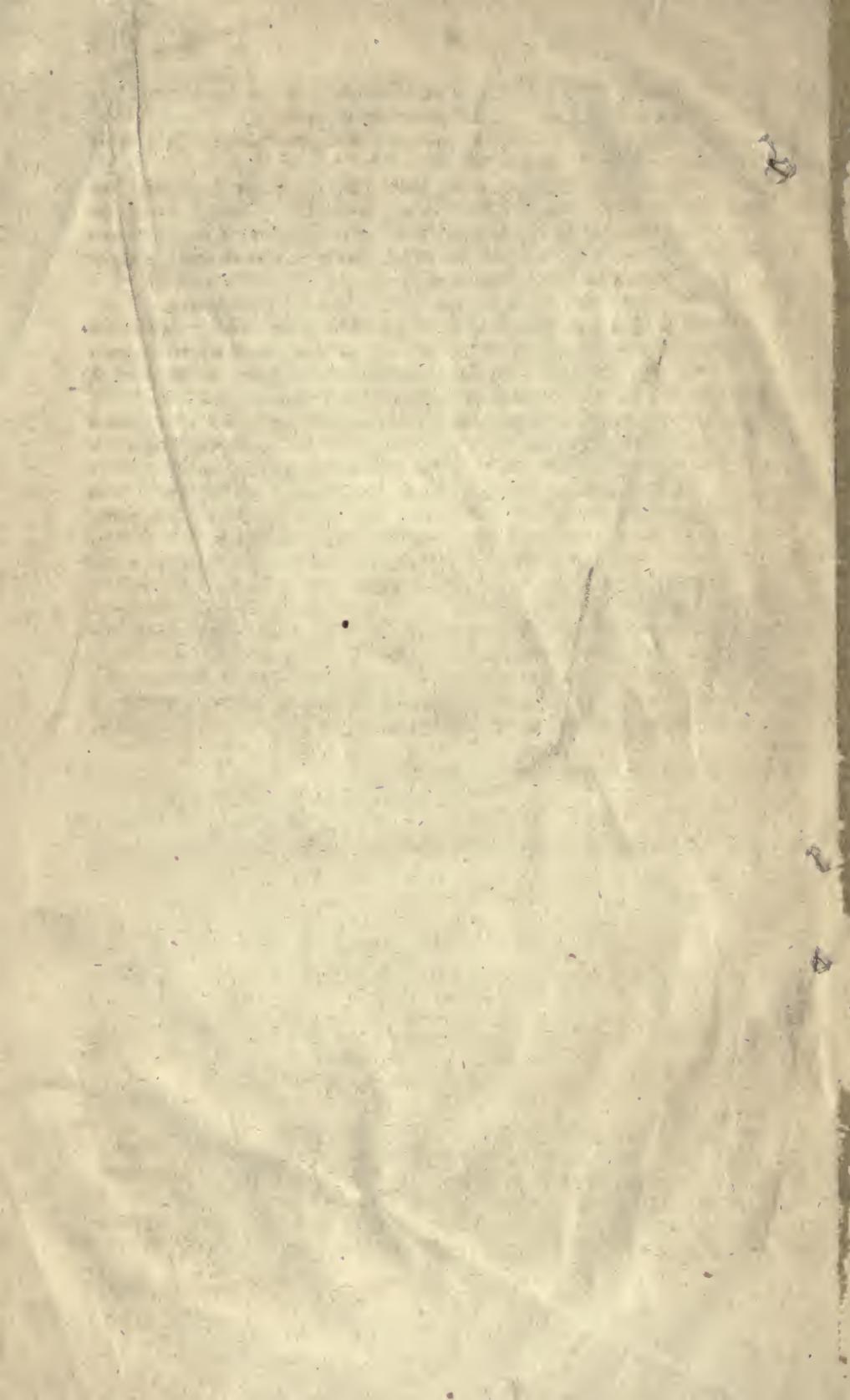
WILLIAM WILKINS,

*Secretary of War.*

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

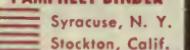










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